



USAID/JAMAICA— WEEKLY REPORT

July 10, 2012 Highlights:



Caption: Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Ms. Denise A. Herbol (left) is seen here in discussion with the Minister of Labor & Security the Hon. Derrick Kellier at the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Media Launch.



Caption: Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Ms. Denise A. Herbol delivers her remarks at the Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) hosted its launch and Annual General Meeting.



Caption: From left, Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica Ms. Denise A. Herbol, Sales Development Specialist of the Jamaica National Building Society, Ms. Alicia Young, Minister of Education, the Hon. Rev. Ronald G. Thwaites present reading books to the principal and students of the Central Branch Primary at the Press launch of Camp Summer Plus 2012.

- ◆ **National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Media Launch**— The development of tools for the media campaign that will assist in achieving objective 4 of the USAID/PEPFAR Program which is to finalize and disseminate the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy has been completed. In preparation for placement of advertisements (one 30sec radio ad and one 60sec television) the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) hosted an official launch of the campaign. The high level launch marked the first introduction of the tools to the general public. USAID/Jamaica's Mission Director, Ms. Denise A. Herbol brought remarks to this event on behalf of the agency which is the primary funder. The launch was held on July 3, 2012 at 11:00am at the Mona Visitor's Lodge. The National HIV/Workplace Policy to date has undergone public consultations and review and it has been committed to the joint select committee of parliament during 6 sittings. The report of the committee was tabled in the parliament back in November 10, 2009 and the house debated the report and approved the recommendations of the joint select committee on February 16, 2010. Currently, the policy is being submitted to the Human Resource Committee of the Cabinet to be approved as a white paper. This is the final stage that will lead to the development of the legislation. The media campaign will aid in the public awareness on understanding the importance of policies on HIV as well as understanding the importance of private sector companies developing policies on HIV.
- ◆ **The Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) Launch & AGM**— The Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) hosted its launch and Annual General Meeting on July 6, 2012 at the Pegasus Hotel. The Mission Director brought greetings at the launch ceremony on behalf of USAID.
- ◆ **Camp Summer Plus 2012 Press Launch**— Camp Summer Plus 2012 hosted a Press Launch on Friday, July 6, 2012 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. The launch was held at the Ministry of Education's 3rd Floor Conference Room where the Mission Director brought remarks. During Summer 2011, USAID/Jamaica collaborated with the Ministry of Education and several private sector entities to pilot Camp Summer Plus 2011. The camp was implemented for one hundred and twenty five (125) Grade 3 students from eight (8) schools, in Region 1 at the Shortwood Teachers' College. The results in both the academic and social dimensions were encouraging and supported the claims made by researchers, that effective summer programs are valuable in improving reading skills. Beginning July 9, 2012 and ending August 11, 2012, Camp Summer Plus 2012 will be implemented for five weeks in seven locations in three education regions impacting 1000 students. Camp Summer Plus has two main aims, namely: a) to provide focused, intensive, data-driven academic programs which are facilitated through technology and the arts, in the critical areas of reading and mathematics; and b) to provide nutritional, psychological, social and other support which are known to impact student performance. The Ministry of Education announced at the launch that the teaching strategies that are used for Camp Summer Plus will now be implemented at the secondary level.

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **TAJ to address the enormous backlog of tax debt arrears** - Since November 2011 the Project to Promote, Renew, Invigorate, Develop and Energize the Economic Environment (PRIDE) has worked with the Tax Administration of Jamaica (TAJ) to address the enormous backlog of tax debt arrears. TAJ drafted a tax debt arrears write off policy which was submitted to the Financial Secretary in August 2011. Two weeks ago the Financial Secretary gave TAJ a week to prepare a Cabinet Submission on the results of the tabling are forthcoming and the Minister of Finance has requested additional support from PRIDE Jamaica to build on past and current progress.
- ◆ **USAID/Jamaica and the Ministry of Health (MOH) PEPFAR review meeting** - USAID/Jamaica and the Ministry of Health (MOH) will host their quarterly PEPFAR review meeting on Thursday July 12, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. The Program review will look at Public Financial Management & Risk Assessment; Marketing and Branding; Financial Procedures along with discussions on continuing to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV by targeting most-at-risk populations, which includes Sex Workers (with a 4.1% prevalence rate), their Clients, Men who have Sex with Men (with a 32% prevalence rate) and out-of-school youth with prevention information, health services, and referrals to other support.
- ◆ **Global Climate Change (GCC) Workshop** - USAID/Jamaica will support the development of a National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan—a clear request of Prime Minister Simpson when she launched the Climate Change Department under the newly formed Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (WLECC) in May. The Jamaica Mission, with help from the GCC team in E3 and LAC/RSD/ENV is supporting the GOJ's kick off workshop on the development of the strategy in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop will be held July 26 and 27, 2012. The Mission Director and GCC team (here and in Washington) are working hard to ensure there is political will from the highest levels of government and see this as the opportune time to continue the push for forwarding our GCC agenda (more than half of the Mission's DA funding). The meeting will include all stakeholders: Government, development partners, private sector, academia and NGO. Jamaica is embracing the need to “get this right first”, before implementing programs and to maximize impact of resources. More importantly, they see the “whole of government” approach in this effort and how each ministry plays an important role in Jamaica's overall climate change adaptation process.
- ◆ **The way forward for Digital Jam 2.0** - Following the success of Digital Jam 2.0 project, the World Bank and USAID/Jamaica will convene a meeting on Tuesday July 10, 2012 at 1:30 PM at the offices of The World Bank-Jamaica to build on the momentum generated by the Digital Jam 2.0 to secure a suite of sustainable results in the immediate to medium terms and to determine a strategy and map the way forward before the onset of the holiday season.

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